

We listened to Councilman Elrich's hour-plus presentation on MC Budget. We thank him and appreciate his years of service.

We need more specifics on Rental Assistance, Increased County Services, learning shortages, climate change, early childhood education (0-4), rent subsidies, social emotional support, guaranteed income pilot program, Montgomery Cares.

How much money is being allocated to humanitarian causes that are overburdened due to MC being a Sanctuary City? What percentage of new students in our schools are due to an influx of people seeking political asylum? Do we have enough oversight to be certain that people receiving financial assistance of any kind is truly deserving? I have personally witnessed a lot of fraud and waste. Where my heart breaks for people in need, I would like to see my County run the way I run my financial household. Whenever my costs go up, I have to reallocate my other expenses or look for ways to save or go without.

At some point, Montgomery County will have to say we cannot afford to sustain the number of people seeking financial assistance. We need to enforce our laws and figure out better diagnosis, treatment, and housing for our mentally ill (continuing to treat our homeless and returning them to the streets is not only expensive, it is not working). When we figure out these things, then maybe we can afford the luxury of going green and sending babies to school under the name of early childhood education. As for Montgomery Cares, my understanding of this is that people are going to the hospital for care with no health insurance. In order to keep our hospitals running, Montgomery County has this fund to pay for those who are uninsured. Who are they? Why are they uninsured when the taxpayers are having to pay for an prove that we have insurance or we will get fined.

Our tax coffers are not bottomless. There is a limit. I am in the 32% tax bracket. That's enough. We do not have confidence in those in power to spend the money we provide by hard work appropriately. I heard about county worker salaries, teacher salaries, and police training and salaries. What about social workers? They are some of the most highly educated yet grossly underpaid workers ever. Do we really need all day "pre-K" for 0-4-year-olds? Is this just another way of offering free daycare? No one paid for my children's daycare, college, or anything else. Their student loans were at 9%. Again, our tax coffers are not bottomless. I want my hard-paid tax dollars to be wisely spent and invested.